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News Bulletin Diocese of Sultanpet

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Bishop Speaks...

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,
May peace, joy and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!



Word Became Flesh!

The final document of the synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region held in Rome in October this year declares that the “Church is committed to supporting indigenous people.” It rightly denounces the attacks perpetrated on the lives of the indigenous people, the project of predatory development which lead to ethnocide, ecocide and the criminalization of social movements (*L'Osservatore Romano*, 1.11, 1019, p.3). This vital message is already seen in the Incarnation of Jesus as articulated by St. John: Word became flesh (1:14). Humanly speaking this phrase looks bizarre to comprehend. Nevertheless, when we analyze it in the Johannine context we can understand its social and spiritual implications.

Biblical Context of Logos!

In the philosophical world multiple meaning is attributed to the Word (*logos in Greek*). According to Philo of Alexandria it is the sum and locus of God's creative power. This notion is closer to the Genesis account of creation (Gen 1) where the “God said” formula occurs ten times, indicating that *logos* of God is creative and effective. When John begins his Gospel by saying that *logos* was *with* God and *logos* was God (1:1) he applies this *logos* to Jesus who is personified both as Son of God and God himself, that is, his humanity and divinity (*Raymond Brown*). He was not “clothed” with flesh but he had truly taken flesh (*Pope Benedict XVI*). Connecting Jesus the *logos* with the Genesis notion John continues to say that “all things came into being *through* him” (1:3). The attribution of creation to Jesus was further clarified by Jesus himself: “Apart from me you can do nothing” (*Jn 15:5; Cf. also Col 1:16; Rom 11:36*). So, in the Genesis notion of the *Word*, the creative power of God, Jesus the Word is implied. This explains the God-head nature of Jesus; he was with God, but without exhausting the being of God.

Word became Flesh!

The omnipotent, omnipresent and creative power of the Word descended and became contextual, time bound and constrained with all types of creaturely weakness when the Word became flesh (*sarxs*) in Bethlehem. “Became” indicates action taking place at a point of time and “flesh” stands for the whole person (*Raymond Brown*). This Word became ‘flesh’ in the person of Jesus and “dwelt among us (*eskenosen*),” that is, settling down permanently in a place (cf. Rev 12:12). By this the Word, not only took the form of a human being, but also entered into the existing social, religious and political society of the Jewish village: Bethlehem. Besides this, by his birth Jesus brings a blessing to the World: the Greek term *eskenosen* is the equivalent of the Hebrew word *shekinah* which indicates, in the context of the Old Testament (Ex 40:34), the true presence of God with men. This is the reason why Jesus was given the name: Emmanuel which means God with us (Mt 1:23).

A Child of Harmony!



For his human birth Jesus did not choose any center like Jerusalem, a prominent group like Pharisees or Sadducees, an elite family like aristocrats or royalty. He chose to be born in the midst of common people, starting his human journey in a very remote and unknown village Bethlehem. It is very common nowadays to erect flex boards and posters of gigantic size blocking the roads and use fireworks to welcome the politicians and dignitaries. These boards, posters and banners and fireworks not only pollute the environment but also put the life of the travelers in danger. Greedy politicians allow unsuitable developmental projects for their selfish hoarding of corrupt money and consequently destroy the ecology. On the other hand, by his birth Jesus brought happiness and peace to the afflicted and oppressed people, like Zachariah, the Shepherds, and Simeon. He revealed himself to the wise men from the East and laid bare the crooked mind of Herod. He was in search of the lost so that he could give solace to every kind of distressed

people. When he said “I came to save not the just but the sinners” (Mt 9:13), he made the purpose of his coming into the world very clear: not just to fulfill a religious act of dispensing forgiveness but to bring peace of mind and harmony to society. His “dwelling among us” manifests itself very concretely in his dwelling in the house of Zacchaeus (“*I must stay at your house today*” :Lk 19:5), and by which he brings not only great joy to Zacchaeus but also harmony between Zacchaeus and his fellow citizens (cf. vv. 6-9).

Feast of Peace!

The Angel's proclamation of peace (Lk 2:14) points us to our mission in celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is normally thought that conflicts among individuals results in social struggle. But today it is different. The global problem of climate change caused by the undue pollution in every sector of industry and the throw-away culture that gives rise to the monster of the profit-economy, as narrated by Pope Francis (*Laudato Si*, no. 17-47), create in individuals, family and in society a “spiral of violence.” Cry of hopelessness is commonly heard all over the world with frustration on account of Majoritarian dictum, institutional violence and political murders that result in starvation, suffocation and fear. Our towns and even villages in India are becoming more and more dangerous to live in peaceful coexistence. The Child Jesus brought a peaceful environment in Bethlehem, lived a harmonious life with creation. He tells us: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (Jn 14:27). This peace which Jesus gives is not just a state of being without conflict with anyone but a holistic life respecting the whole creation and our Mother Earth.

I am glad to wish you all a **Merry Christmas!** May the Child Jesus shower upon you His abundant peace and mercy!

+ **Antony Samy Peter Abir**
Bishop of Sultanpet

Bishop's Appointments

Date	Time	Programme	Place
3	08.15 am	Parish Feast Mass	Pazhaniyarpalayam
5-6		KCBC Meeting	POC, Cochin
6	05.30 pm	Cathedral Feast Mass	Vijayapuram
8	11.00 am	Blessing of New Chapel	Kulukkupara

Date	Time	Programme	Place
11		Madha TV program	Chennai
12	10.30 am	Priestly Ordination	Kanjeepuram
13		Madha TV program	Chennai
14	10.00 am	CRI Christmas Meet	Bishop's House
15		Episcopal Ordination	Palayamkottai
16	10.00 am	Priests' Recollection & Christmas Celebration,	Bishop's House
19	03.00 pm	Visiting different orphanages	Palakkad
20		Visiting the Jail and Old age Home	Palakkad
22-23		Death Anniversary Mass for Parents	Pondicherry
24	11.30 pm	Christmas Mass	Palakkad
25	08.00 am	Christmas Mass	Kinarpallam (Sayathurai parish)
26	10.00 am	Seminarians' Meet	Bishop's House
27	08.30 am	Parish Feast Mass	Attapallam
29	08.00 am	Blessing of the Renovated Church	Kanakankalam
31	11.30 pm	New Year Mass	Cathedral
1 Jan 20	08.00 am	New Year Mass	Irumbagacholai

From the Procurator's Desk

1. Parish Audit report (2018-19) is ready in the procure office. Please pay Audit Fee, Annual Contribution, pending Mass Intentions and pending special collection if any and get, at the earliest, the audit report of your parish.
2. Reminder of the special collections to be remitted for December will be St. Peter the Apostle.
3. Mission Sunday Calendar, Cover and posters are available in the procure office. Please collect them soon.

Medical help

In the month of November we distributed medical help to:

Palaniyarpalayam - 5000

Palakkad - 5000

Sayathurai - 5000

NB: Parish priests those who are sending your parishioners for medical help may first consult with Rev. Msgr. A. S. Madalaimuthu, VG, and then write the recommendation letter. Please don't send them directly to the procure office.

Education fund

Opening Balance	23,37,838.00
Sayathurai	15,000.00
Walayar	15,000.00
Sorapara	40,000.00
Closing balance	24,07,838.00

Rev. Fr. Antony Sagayanathan
Financial Administrator

Migrant Commission

May I request all the parish priests to bring the data of migrants from your parish when you come for the next recollection on 16th December.

Rev. Fr. Joy Kuzhinjalil, MSFS
Secretary, Migrant Commission

Family Commission

The next Marriage preparation classes will be held at Sorapara on Saturday and Sunday, 18-19 January 2020. Please note it and send your candidates for the classes without fail.

Rev. Fr. Jesudass,
Secretary, Family Commission

Christmas Meet of CRI

As we had already planned the Christmas Gathering of all the religious of our diocese will be held on Saturday 14th December 2019 in the Bishop's House, Sultanpet. All the religious, both men and women, are expected to come without fail. The Program begins at 10 am.

Rev. Fr. Arok Sundar, O.F.M.,
Episcopal Vicar for Religious

Carols Competition

The Diocesan Christmas Carols Competition is held on Sunday 15th December 2019 at the Cathedral hall. The Program starts at 5 pm. From this year onward the winning team will be awarded with the Rolling Trophy, while all the teams and participants will be honored with memento and personal gifts. The team in charge of conducting this program will communicate the rules and regulations to all the parish priests.

Rev. Fr. Sylvester D'Cruz,
Parish Priest, Vadakancherry.

Vatican News



Pope in Tokyo: Christ is the lens that helps us prioritize our lives

Amid the confusion and anxiety often found in modern society, Christ offers us the perspective and freedom to order our lives properly, Pope Francis said at Mass in Tokyo on Monday.

Pope Francis in Hiroshima: 'Never again war'

Pope Francis prayed for peace Sunday at the site of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, where he called for an end to war and the threat of nuclear weapons.

Be witnesses of hope in the face of evil, Francis urges Catholics in Nagasaki

On the Feast of Christ the King Sunday, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to not be indifferent to evil, but to bear witness to hope and to the kingdom of God still to come.

Religious freedom a 'moral imperative,' pope tells leaders of major religions in Thailand

In a meeting with leaders of major religions in Thailand Friday, Pope Francis stressed the importance of upholding human dignity and religious freedom.

Pope Francis: Women's voices are needed in Vatican leadership

Pope Francis said Saturday that more women are needed in positions of leadership in the Vatican.

Pope Francis: The poor, unborn, and elderly are neglected in the frenzy of modern life

On the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said that the poor and most vulnerable can be left behind in the frenetic haste and self-centeredness of the modern world.

From Vicar General Desk

Visit to Irumbagacholai & Recollection



All priests working in the Diocese with our bishop went in a bus to Irumbagacholai (Parish of Mannarkad) on Monday 18th November. This new mission station is about 50 km from Palakkad. A Church, dedicated to Our Lady of Carmel, was newly built here. The faithful and the parish priest (Rev. Fr. George, OCD) welcomed all of us. We had the monthly



recollection for the priests in the Church. After the Recollection the parish provided us with a good lunch. While returning in the afternoon we visited the Kanjirapuzha dam which is just nearer to the Church. This Church is under the care of the OCD fathers.

Clergy Recollection & Christmas Gathering

We shall have the monthly recollection and the Christmas celebration of our clergy on Monday 16th December. As usual the programme begins at 10 am in the Bishop's House.

*Rev. Msgr. A. S. Madalaimuthu,
Vicar General*

CD on St. Martin de Pores

During the feasts Mass of St. Martin De Pores at Menonpara on Sunday 3rd November. two audio CD'S on St. Martin de Pores were released by our Bishop. These CDs were prepared by Fr Antonysamy OFM, the Parish Priest of Menonpara. One Cd consists of hymns and another one is on the life history of St. Martin De Pores. It is a good effort which will be useful for the people. We appreciate the parish priest and his collaborators for this effort.



Foundation Stone for Presbytery

The foundation stone for the new presbytery was blessed and laid by our bishop at Shornur on Thursday 21st November 2019. The project will be completed within four months.



Chapter Meeting of MF



The Indian Province of the Missionaries of Faith held their first Provincial Chapter in their Provincial House at Malampuzha, Palakkad. On Monday 25th November our bishop inaugurated this Chapter which is held for five days and he gave a motivational talk on the Religious life Today in India. The Superior General of the MF Congregation was also present for this Chapter. The priests of this religious Congregation are looking after a parish of our Diocese at Malampuzha.

*Deacon Nelson Joy,
Secretary to the Bishop*

KLCWA Women Commission

KCBC Women Commission conducted Trissur zonal level meeting at Palakkad, St. Sebastian's Cathedral on Thursday 14th November 2019. There were 125 women participated and the meeting was inaugurated by our bishop Most. Rev. Dr. Antonysamay Peter Abir. with a striking motivated talk; the resource persons, Adv. Mini Thomas, Mrs. Jane Ancil spoke on women empowerment and political awareness with a view to form the leadership among women, considering the forthcoming Panchayat election. It was well organized by KLCWA (women commission) of Sultanpet Diocese. We thank all the parish priests for motivating the women to participate in the meeting.



*Fr. Albert Anandraj; Mrs. Theresa
Women Commission*

Catechetical Commission

Catechism Exam 2019-20

The 1st Semester Catechetical Exam was conducted to all the catechism students from 1st to 12th standard on 3rd November 2019 from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon,. Most of the parishes participated very well. Parish Priests and Teachers are very co-operative and collaborative to fulfil the diocesan norms of the Catechetical commission. I extend my appreciation to all for their continuous support and cooperation.

1st Rank holder of Logos quiz 2019

KCBC Bible commission awarded the 1st rank holders of each Diocese in the state level Logos exam 2019 for the first time in the history on 24th Nov. 2019. Mrs. Sheena Thomas from St. Sebastian's Church, the parish Nenmara (of our Diocese) received the award as the 1st rank holder of our Diocese. Diocesan commission is very proud of Mrs Sheena Thomas for her achievement. We thank Fr. Joy, the parish priest of Nenmara, for his motivation to achieve the same.



*Rev. Fr. Prince Robert
Director, Catechetical Commission*

ORDINATION DAY

3rd Fr. Philip, MSFS	18th Fr. K.P. Vincent	30th Fr. Francis Xavier Kavalakkal
9th Fr. Martin Alukaputhussery, MF	22nd Fr. Antony Pichaimuthu SDB	27th Fr. Antony SJ
11th Fr. Stanley Stephen	30th Fr. C. Maria Joseph	

SNL wish you a Happy Ordination Day

BIRTH DAY

2nd Fr. F.A Babiyan OMI	14th Fr. Rejimon Devasia	30th Fr. Antony Asariparambil, OSJ
6th Fr. Jesmin Nelson	25th Fr. Jesudass	

SNL wish you a Happy Birth Day

FEAST DAY

02nd Fr. F.A Babiyan OMI	25th Fr. Jesudass
3rd Fr. Francis Xavier Kavalakkal	25th Fr. Manuel Muthumakuzhy, TOR
8th Fr. Amal Charles	26th Fr. Stanley Stephen
17th Fr. L. Lazar Arulappan	31st Fr. Sylvester D' Cruz

*SNL wish you a
Happy Feast Day*



Wish you A Happy Christmas & Happy New Year